Perley, Sir George Halsey

Canadian Minister of Militia, London

Nov. 1916 - June 1917

(14)

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November 10th, 1916

Honourable Sir George Perley, K.C.M.G.,

Canadian Militia Department,

London, England.

Dear Sir:

I have been requested by Mr. J. A. Bicknell to write you on behalf of his son, Mr. N. J. Bicknell, a medical student of this University, who has been in France for fifteen months and was in the Somme offensive and is now taking an officer's training course in England. His address is Cadet N. J. Bicknell, Number 1568, Officer's Training Course, Canadian Military School, Shorncliffe.

His father writes me that owing to his mother's illness he would like to have three months or even six months' leave after he has completed his course of training. I am forwarding to you this request that has been sent to me by Mr. Bicknell, though I am unable from personal knowledge to give you any further details in the matter.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

November 27th, 1916

Sir George Perley, K.C.M.G.,

Overseas Canadian Minister of Militia,

London, England.

Dear Sir George:

I have a letter this morning asking me whether I can secure any information concerning Mr. R. B. Hare, who was a second year medical student of this University, and joined one of the Ambulance Corps leaving for England in the spring of 1915. He was made a prisoner of war in June last. No word has been received from him since August and his people are growing very anxious. I shall take it as a great favour if I can secure any information with regard to Mr. Hare.

His address in August last was as follows:

Private Robert B. Hare, 28th Canadian Battalion,

2 Kompagnie,

M 2 - 478d,

Stendal, Gefangenenlager, Germany.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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19, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S. W.

November 30th 1916.

Dear President Falconer,

Your letter of the 10th instant regarding Mr. N.J. Bicknell, who desires to obtain long leave after he has concluded his course of training, has duly reached me.

I shall gladly take an early opportunity of looking into this matter, as you request.

Yours very truly,

George H. Perley.

Robert A. Falconer, Esq., C.M.G., LL.D.,
University of Toronto,
Toronto,
CANADA.

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19, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S. W.

12th December, 1916.

Dear President Falconer,

Your letter of the 27th ultimo, regarding Mr. R.B. Hare who was made a prisoner of war in June last, has duly reached me, and I will gladly have some steps taken with a view to procure some information regarding this gentleman, advising you of the result without avoidable delay.

Wishing you the compliments of the Season,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

George H. Perley

Robert A. Falconer, Esqre.,
C.M.G., LL.D.,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

H/

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January 8th, 1917

Sir George Perley, K.C.M.G.,

Canadian Minister of Militia,

London, England.

Dear Sir George:

Some time ago I wrote to General Carleton Jones asking him whether it would not be possible to have our University of Toronto Hospital, No. 4 Canadian General, brought back from Salonica either to France or England before the opening of next summer, but it may be due to the recent changes that I have had no reply from General Jones in this matter.

The Hospital has now served for two winters and one summer in Salonica, and all our accounts from a great variety of sources lead us to believe that the staff has rendered exceptionally good service in Salonica. As you are probably aware they did not hesitate to go to Salonica when they were asked nor did the University. We were glad that they were both able and willing to render good service in such an important outpost. For some months, however, we have been hearing of the effects of the strain upon our men and the nursing sisters. These have been so serious that a great many changes have occurred and several have been invalidaded to England. The result is that the character of the Hospital is changing, and as we have not been asked to send any substitutes for those who have left it is slipping away from our influence.

We feel that it would be asking too much of many of these doctors and nurses to spend a second summer in the East. I would therefore urgently ask you to be kind enough to use your influence with the British War Office to have the Hospital transferred to some more healthy situation either in France or in Britain before the opening of the coming summer.

I am sure that the staff are willing to work hard, but they cannot do the best unless they are given a change. We can secure substitutes for men who wish to come home on leave and get their affairs into order after their long absence. I mentioned this fact also in my letter to General Jones.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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January 11th, 1917

Hon. Sir George Perley, K.C.M.G.,

19 Victoria Street,

London, S.W.,

England.

Dear Sir George:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of December 28th stating that after inquiry you have heard from the Canadian Red Cross that they are receiving regular acknowledgment from Mr. R. B. Bare, now a prisoner of war in Germany.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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March 8th, 1917

Sir George Perley, K.C.M.G.,

Overseas Minister of Militia, London.

Dear Sir George:

Will you be kind enough to hand this letter which I am addressing to you to the Officer who will deal with the matter ? I apologise for writing to you but I do not know whom else to approach.

I wish to bring to your attention the case of Private Paul R. Clarke, No. 55567, M.C.S., 19th Battalion, whose last address was 2 Platoon A, Company C, Division C.C.D. St. Leonards, England. He is the son of Dr. W. F. Clarke of Toronto, an undergraduate of this University in the second year in Arts in University College. He went to the front two years ago with the second contingent and was in the trenches until after the engagement of St. Eloi, when he was taken out with paratyphoid. Before he came out of the line he was recommended for a commission by his Colonel, J. Maclaren and Captain Kilner, and I supported this application myself. Having fallen ill his application has lapsed and now for nine months he has been in England making no improvement in his health and apparently showing signs of kidney trouble. Dr. Clarke went to England last summer to see his boy, and offered to bring him out to Canada at his own expense, and when he was well to have him attached to a regiment again, but he was told that as a private nothing could be done for him until he was fit for duty.

After these nine months of sickness he is still unfit for duty, and is evidently going down hill merely from having to live under bad conditions in his present state. If he were given his commission he could get leave, but as you see his application lapsed because of his sickness. It seems to me to be a very hard case and I would strongly urge that the boy be allowed to come home so that he may have the chance of recovering under his father's supervision, and then he may be given his commission and return to active service.

I feel sure that if the matter is laid before the proper authorities they will endeavour to prevent what seems to be rapidly becoming a case of dangerous illness.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 13th, 1917

Sir George Perley,

Canadian Minister of Militia,

London, England.

My dear Sir George:

I have an application from Mrs. A. Carson of Barrie, Ontario, asking me to use what influence I can for the return of Gunner Rollett Carson, Number 337806. He was wounded at Vimy on April 25th, though is progressing favourably. He was in the second year in the Faculty of Medicine in this University and is quite young, though I do not know his age. His mother is anxious that he should return and finish his course in Medicine. If the war continues of course there will be a demand for men in Medicine and should you find it possible in accordance with your general policy to grant leave to Gunner Carson I should think that he has likely earned his release and he might be useful later if he is equipped as a medical man.

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 13th, 1917

Sir George Perley,

Canadian Minister of Militia,

London, England.

My dear Sir George:

I have a letter from Mrs. Angus Urquhart of Mosstack, Sask. who writes me that her son, Sapper Richard William Ian Urquhart, of the Divisional Signalling Company, C.E., who is just a little over 18 enlisted against her will, and that they need him at home on the farm, that he is now in England and that there are certain papers with regard to property which cannot be signed until he returns. Mrs. Urquhart urges me to write to you to find whether seeing that he enlisted without her knowledge it would be possible for him to return for the winter tern and also to sign the papers in question and do farm work. At the age of twenty they are quite willing that he should return to the front.

Yours sincerely,

President.